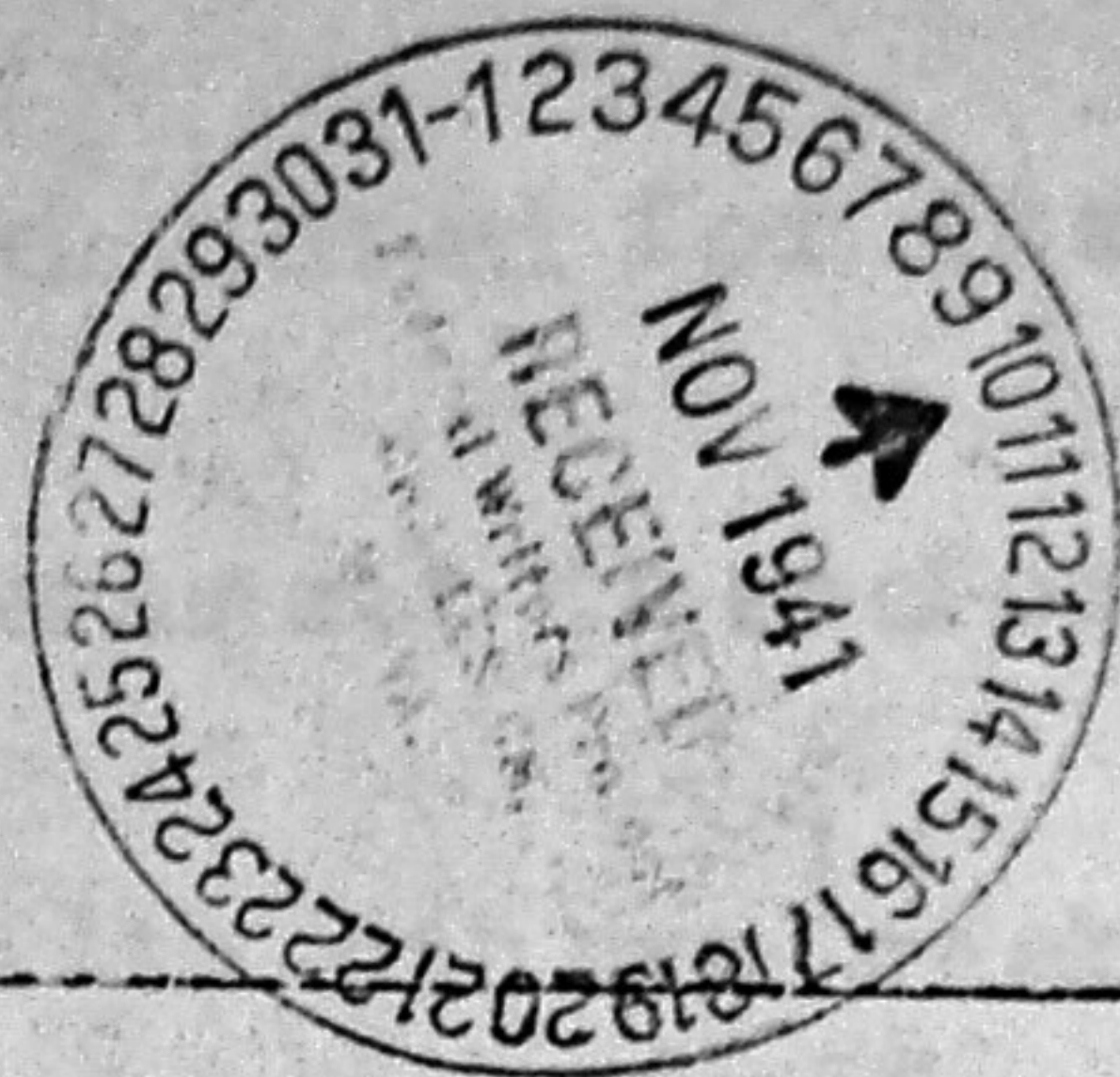


West Virginia Writers' Project  
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT



Subject County Government.

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COUNTY Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

Pocahontas County from the very beginning has been noted for its fertile soil, its healthy climate and its good county government therefore many outside people have migrated here, some for their health others seeking to establish a home while others came for employment and so in 1847 many people from outside the western waters began to come in and among them were Cornelius and Nicholas Stulting and John Vanrenan who were born in Utrich one of the states of Holland, they all came to the United States in 1847 and were born in Holland in 1790, 1821 and 1804 respectively, locating in Pocahontas County in 1847 and at the same time became citizens after first being passed upon by the court of our county, these men brought with them the many ways and doings of their father country and after settling within our borders taught the settlers to be thrifty and energetic citizens.

In 1852 William J Wooddell was elected Sheriff of the county with Allen C. Burner and John A. Holden as his deputies this was for a two year term Thomas Hill was again selected as commissioner of the revenue for another term. Thomas A. Bradford was elected attorney for the commonwealth by this court for a four year term beginning July 1. 1852. William Skeen was elected Clerk of the County Court for a term of 6 years starting July 1. 1852. About this time the rate of pay on the county roads was raised to 75 cts per day. and so the county tax was some higher as it was 1006.26 to be collected



1037 tithables. At this time the court decided best to classify the justices that were to hold court for November 1852 and they were Justices Buckley, McLaughlin and Burner class # 2 was to be held by Hill, Baxter, and Gammon for March term 1853. Class # 3 was to be held by Hudson, Rhea, and Gay June term 1853. # 4 Wanless, Bruffey and Gilliland for August term 1853. # 5 held by Justices Warwick, Lockridge and Kerr for the November term 1853.

The only place for crazy people at that time was at the lunatic Assylum located at Staunton Virginia and so any one that went crazy on this side of the Alleghany Mountain was sent by the court of Pocahontas County to this institution for treatment. Henry M Moffett who had served as Clerk of the court for many years died about 1851, he having accumulated quite a fortune at that time and his son had to give bond to the amount of 40,000.00 to settle the estate.

In 1852 the county was districted and the following men served on the districting board George Edmiston 6 days at 2.00 total 12.00, Wm. Cochran 6 days or 12.00, Hugh McLaughlin 3 days or 6.00 and Solomon Arbogast 2 days or 4.00 or a total of 34.00 paid these men for their services in districting the county. Pocahontas County has many streams and it was about this time that the court had a majority of these streams bridged, this was all authorized by the court and paid by the Sheriff of the Co-



It was unlawful for a free negro to run at large without proper registration furnished by the court.

William Curry is chosen deputy clerk for William Skeen. Patrick Bruffey one of the pioneers in our county government died and his son William was chosen to fill the vacancy as justice for district # 4. A list of delinquent land taxes for 1852 amounting to \$ 79.17, personal property 6.44 and capitation tax delinquencies of \$ 18.28.

Court records show the men serving on the court ~~and~~ <sup>that</sup> inspected ~~insp~~ ~~ected~~ the records from July. 1. 1852 to August. 1 1853. Paul McNeel attended court 17 settings at \$ 3.00 a setting or a total of \$ 51.00

George Burner attended 4 days \$ 12.00. Patrick Bruffey 4 days 12.00. David W. Kerr 6 days 18.00. Elijah Hudson 6 days 18.00. William T. Gammon 6 days 18.00. James T. Lockridge 4 days 12.00. William Baxter 7 days 21.00. Josiah Buckley 4 days 12.00. Levi Wanless 8 days 24.00. John W. Warwick 4 days 12.00. Michael B. Gilliland 5 days 15.00. Archibald Rhea 4 days 12.00. John Gay 7 days 21.00. Abraham Hill 4 days 12.00. Hugh McLaughlin 9 days 27.00. William S. Bruffey 1 day 3.00 or a total of 100 days and 300.00.

By an order of the court a grandjury shall be chosen for terms of court June and November and the number to be drawn was to be 16. At a census taken in Pocahontas County in 1850 it was found that we had a population of 3,000 white people and from this was chosen 60 persons that were